

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. A method of activating an electromagnetic consumer having a movable element, the electromagnetic consumer including a solenoid valve for controlling a metering of fuel into an internal combustion engine, comprising the steps of:

determining a duration of a time window such that a current flowing through the consumer during the time window does not exceed a threshold value; and
 (determining a switching instant at which the movable element has reached a particular position within the time window.)

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2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of increasing the duration of the time window starting from a starting value if the current is lower than the threshold value.

Subc 3

3. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of reducing the duration of the time window if the current is greater than the threshold value.

Subc 4

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of increasing the duration of the time window until reaching a maximum value for the duration.

Subc 5

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 receiving a power supply voltage at the consumer during a period of time;
 and
 analyzing a time variation of the current to determine the switching instant.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of determining the current immediately before an end of the time window.

Subc 5

7. A device for activating an electromagnetic consumer having a movable element, the electromagnetic consumer including a solenoid valve for controlling a metering of fuel into an internal combustion engine, the device comprising:

means for determining a duration of a time window such that a current

flowing through the consumer during the time window does not exceed a threshold value; and

means for determining a switching instant at which the movable element has reached a particular position within the time window.